

Mr. W. L. SCLATER communicated the following notes on African Birds (no. 2):—

Genus ORTHOLOPHUS.

This genus was proposed by Ogilvie-Grant (Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xvii. p. 424, 1892), but no type was designated.

There is some confusion over the taxonomy of the species of the genus which has been straightened out by Finsch (Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 195–205, 1903). I would propose to designate as the type of the genus *Ortholophus cassini* Finsch, which appears in the Catalogue under the name *O. albocristatus*, but which is not the bird described under that name by Cassin.

BYCANISTES SHARPII Elliot and B. LEUCOPYGIUS Dubois.

There has been a good deal of controversy in regard to these two forms. Dubois (Ann. Mus. Congo, i. fasc. 1, 1905, pp. 6–9; also Bull. Soc. Zool. France, xxxiv. 1909, p. 129) has written at considerable length on the matter. He identifies *B. sharpii* Elliot as a young male of *B. fistulator*, in which there can be no doubt he was quite in the wrong. *B. fistulator* is easily distinguished from *B. sharpii* by its tail pattern. In the former the lateral tail-feathers have the terminal third or quarter white, the basal portion black throughout; in the latter the tail-feathers, except the two central ones, are white, though there is a little black at the base of some of them.

With regard to the distinction of *B. sharpii* and *B. leucopygius* I find that Gaboon and Angola birds have no trace of a casque, have traces of black of varying amount at the bases of the lateral tail-feathers, especially the inner ones next the central black ones, and the five outer primaries are usually black throughout. In the birds from the middle Congo and the Welle there is, at any rate, a small casque; in the males the lateral tail-feathers are white throughout

and the outer primaries show a considerable amount of white, though there is a good deal of individual variation. I should propose to regard the Middle Congo bird as a subspecies of the Gaboon bird.

As to the nomenclature, the Congo and Welle bird was named by Dubois in 1884 *B. leucopygius*, but this name is unfortunately preoccupied by *B. leucopygus* Giebel, 1876, which appears to be without doubt a synonym of *B. sharpii* and which undoubtedly invalidates Dubois's name.

I would propose therefore to rename the Congo-Welle bird after M. Dubois, and the following will be the synonymy :—

BYCANISTES SHARPII SHARPII (Elliot).

Buceros sharpii Elliot, Ibis, 1873, p. 177 : Angola.

Buceros leucopygus Giebel, Zs. Gesamt. Naturw. xiii. 1876, p. 73 : Gaboon.

Distribution. Northern Angola to Gaboon and the western part of southern Cameroon.

Bycanistes sharpii duboisi, nom. nov.

Buceros leucopygius Dubois, Bull. Mus. Belge, iii. 1884, p. 202, pl. x. fig. 1 : Nyam-Nyam, Upper Welle distr.

Distribution. The middle reaches of the Congo to eastern Cameroon (River Ja) and the Welle.

LOPHOCEROS CAMURUS.

A glance at the series of this Hornbill in the British Museum shows that those from Upper Guinea can be easily distinguished from those from Gaboon and the interior of the Belgian Congo by their darker upper parts, and especially by the colour of the top of the head, which is considerably darker than the back ; while in the Gaboon bird the crown and back are of the same shade, and do not contrast with one another.

The following is the nomenclature and distribution :—

LOPHOCEROS CAMURUS CAMURUS.

Tockus camurus Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. viii. p. 319 (1857) : Cape Lopez.

Seventeen examples examined in B.M. from Gaboon, Cameroon, Ituri, and Welle districts of Belgian Congo.

LOPHOCEROS CAMURUS PULCHRIROSTRIS.

Buceros pulchrirostris Schlegel, Ned. Tijd. Dierk. i. p. 74, pl. iv. (1863) : St. George d'Elmina, Gold Coast.

Eight examples in B.M. examined from Liberia and the Gold Coast.

CORYTHORNIS CRISTATA.

The Malachite Kingfisher, inhabiting the Island of Principe in the Gulf of Guinea, is remarkably distinct from that of the mainland. This last-named is now known as *Corythornis cristata cristata* Pallas (nec Linn.) and was formerly known as *C. cyanostigma* (see C. Grant, 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 263). The Prince's Island bird is called *C. galerita* (Müll.) in the B.M. Catalogue (xvii. p. 166), and the synonyms given are *Alcedo ceruleocephala* Gmel. and *A. cyanocephala* Shaw. Both these and Müller's name are all founded on Daubenton's plate (Pl. Enlum. no. 356, fig. 1).

An examination of this plate shows that it undoubtedly represents the typical Malachite Kingfisher and not the Prince's Island bird, and Buffon's letterpress informs us that the bird had been obtained from Senegal and Madagascar. It does not therefore seem advisable to use any of these names for the Prince's Island form.

There is one other name in the synonymy of *Corythornis galerita* of the Catalogue. This is *Alcedo nais* of Kaup (Fam. Eisv. p. 13) which, however, is a *nomen nudum*, though the type (which is preserved in the Brit. Mus. Collection) is said to come from Gaboon. The first description is that of Hartlaub (Syst. Orn. Westafr. p. 37, 1857),

founded on a bird also said to be from Gaboon, and this fits the Prince's Island bird very well.

I would therefore propose to call the Prince's Island bird

Corythornis cristata nais Hartlaub.

The following is a brief synopsis of the forms of the genus :—

CORYTHORNIS CRISTATA CRISTATA.

Alcedo cristata Pallas in Vroeg, Cat. Adumb. no. 55, p. 1 (1764) : Cape of Good Hope.

Synonyms are *Alcedo galerita* P. L. S. Müll., *Alcedo cæruleocephala* Gmel., *Alcedo cyanocephala* Shaw, *Alcedo cyanostigma* Rüpp.

Distribution. The whole of Africa south of the Sahara.

CORYTHORNIS CRISTATA NAIS.

Alcedo nais Kaup, Fam. Eisv. p. 12 (1848) (*nom. nud.*) ; Hartlaub, Syst. Orn. Westäfr. p. 37 (1857) : Gaboon ?, more probably Prince's Island.

Distribution. Prince's Island. Possibly Gaboon and Loanda.

CORYTHORNIS VINTSIOIDES.

Alcedo vintsioides Eydoux et Gervais, Voy. La Favourite Ois. in Mag. Zool. 1836, p. 30, pl. 74 : Madagascar.

Synonym *Alcedo cristata* Linn. 1766 (nec Pall., 1764).

Distribution. Madagascar.

Mr. H. F. WITHERBY exhibited some birds from a collection he had made in October 1921 in the region of the Picos de Europa (Provinces of Leon, Asturias, and Santander), North Spain. Comparing some of the birds of this region—the Cantabrian Mountains—with those of Portugal and the Pyrenees, Mr. Witherby pointed out that, while the Goldfinch and Coal-Tit were of the same geographical race as the Portuguese (*viz. Carduelis c. weigoldi*